

218 *THE CASTAWAYS OF
THE FLAG*

Dawn came, and no alarm had been raised,
Although the savages knew that the island was held by a little garrison, they had no idea that it had been reinforced and was in a position to offer them sterner resistance. But it would not be long before they discovered that one of their canoes had disappeared—that which had taken Captain Gould and his party from Falconhurst beach to Shark's Island,

" They may think/' Fritz suggested, " that the canoe has been carried away by the outgoing tide."

" Anyhow/' M. Zermatt replied, " let us keep a careful lookout. As long as the island is not invaded we have nothing to fear. Although there are fifteen of us, we have plenty of food for a long time, with the reserves in the store-house, not to mention the herd of antelopes. The spring is; inexhaustible, and of ammunition we have enough^ provided we are not attacked very often."

" What the deuce!" John Block exclaimed,

" These tailless apes surely won't stay for ever on the island ! "

" Who can tell ? " Mme.

Zermatt answered.

" If they have settled down in Rock

Castle, they
will never leave it. Oh ! our poor
dear house,
prepared to receive all of you, my
children, and,
how in their power ! "

Y

. •- ' ** Mother," said Jenny, " I do not
think they
have destroyed anything at Rock
Castle, for theyj